

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (34)

John Edmonds (2 October 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Brazil set to open for Peruvian citrus

Having only recently benefitted from the U.S. easing import rules, the Peruvian citrus industry is set for another boost as Brazil prepares to open its doors. The Peruvian government's Commercial Economic Advisor (CEC) in Brazil, Antonio Castillo, told www.freshfruitportal.com the Portuguese-speaking country was in its final stages of approving imports. Castillo said only mandarins and tangelos were under consideration at the moment, as the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture had concluded these fruits were not affected by pests... "Peru can perform well here due to its export window and product quality," Castillo added. Earlier in September, U.S. authorities lifted regional restrictions on Peruvian citrus imports...

[freshfruitportal.com; 28 September 2015]

Turkish citrus exporters worried

Fluctuations in the Russian economy and the impact of negative developments in the Middle East cause concern for citrus exporters in the 2015-2016 season. The citrus industry's export season, which is expected to open this month, has an average of 3.6 million tons of production annually... Seyhan Chamber of Agriculture's vice president Cahit Incefik also said the citrus yields are normal, but there are problems in the market... "If goods are not exported, what will happen? ... If exports are cut and goods are piled on the domestic market, prices will hit rock bottom. Soon, producers not earning money will start to uproot their trees."

[yenisafak.com; 28 September 2015]

"Start of Spanish citrus campaign on better footing thanks to good southern hemisphere season"

The Spanish citrus season has kicked off with the early Satsuma mandarin harvest and, so far, prospects are better than in the previous year, both in terms of price and quality.... "Satsuma mandarins are popular in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands, although demand for them stops immediately after the arrival of the first clementines, except in countries that traditionally consume Satsumas."... Moreover, Manuel Barber points out that citrus fruit sales in the southern hemisphere have remained strong and stable throughout the campaign, have "helped us start our campaign on a better footing."...

[Freshplaza.com; 28 September 2015]

Spanish lemons head for new markets

The 2015/16 Spanish lemon campaign, which gets underway in the coming weeks, will bring a drive into new markets outside of the European Union, according to Fermín Sánchez of Murcian grower-exporter Gruventa. Sánchez said the growing internationalisation of Spanish lemons meant the UAE and Canada would be added to the company's growing list of export markets this season, during which it also hoped to make further inroads in Asia. The latest forecasts from Ailimpo put the crop at 850,400 tonnes, a 23 per cent decrease on last year's record 1.1m-tonne harvest. The fall is due mainly to adverse climatological conditions during blossoming and fruitset. As a result there is fewer fruit on the trees, but sizing and quality are reportedly excellent.... Sánchez added his voice to growing calls within the sector for the creation of a quality label for Spanish lemons, which he said would "help the country to differentiate its offer from that of its competitors and boost industry efforts to establish promotional campaigns in new markets".

[Fruitnet.com; 28 September 2015]

South African citrus deal defies odds

Entering the 2015 South African citrus season back in April, CEO of industry body Citrus Growers Association (CGA) Justin Chadwick warned that the season "had difficult written all over it", citing "uncertain market conditions". But with the season now drawing towards completion, the industry is coasting through a campaign that has exceeded expectations... South Africa's own lemon production has more than doubled over the past 10 years, climbing from 6m cartons to 14m cartons... Despite rising global demand for lemons, Chadwick cautions that the strong market also reflects a downturn in world supply caused by climatic setbacks for production giant Argentina. Grapefruit, which has often been tricky for the industry in recent years, has also exceeded expectations... However, he also pointed to South African industry initiatives to deliver grapefruit at the optimum stage of development, as key to boosting sales... Despite the positive citrus season for South Africa, it has not all been plain sailing. In particular, the Russian market has been tough, with the depreciation of the rouble impacting sales, noted Chadwick. Nevertheless, the European market has held up well. "There has been no move away from Europe despite fears over Citrus Black Spot – volumes to Europe are actually up on last year – at similar levels to 2013," said Chadwick. "Our sales to Europe have pretty much flat-lined over the past five years, falling within a range of 600,000-650,000 tonnes between 1999 and 2014."

[Fruitnet.com; 17 September 2015]

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za

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